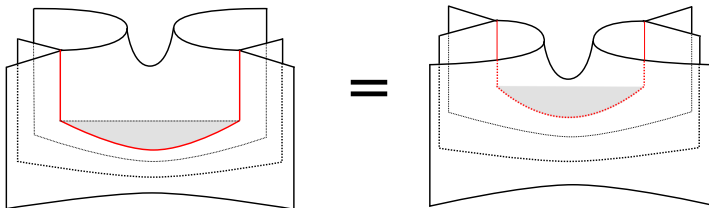


# The $\mathfrak{sl}_3$ web algebra

Daniel Tubbenhauer

Joint work with Marco Mackaay and Weiwei Pan

09.10.2012



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# A well-known example

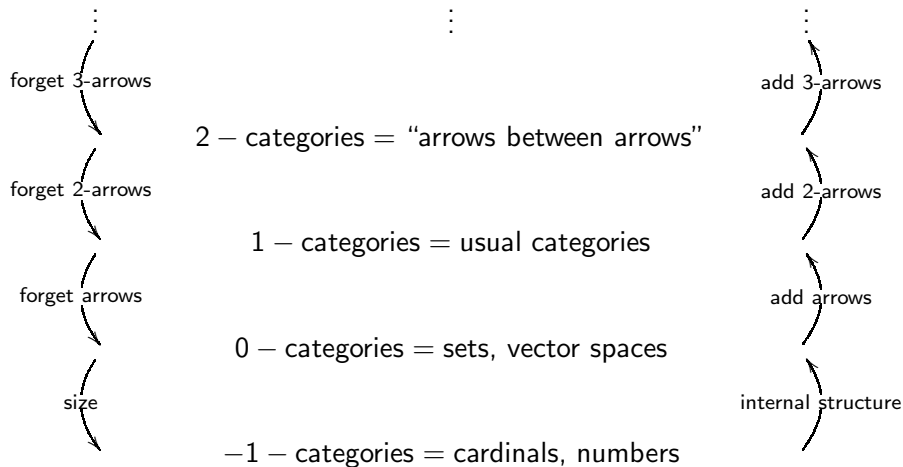
## Noether, Hopf, Mayer

Let  $X$  be a reasonable finite-dimensional spaces. Then the **homology groups**  $H_k(X)$  are a categorification of the Betti numbers of  $X$  and the **singular chain complex**  $(C, d_i)$  is categorification of the Euler characteristic of  $X$ .

Note the following common features of the two examples above.

- The Betti numbers and the Euler characteristic can be seen as parts of “**bigger, richer**” structures.
- In both categorifications it is **very easy** to “**deategorify**”, i.e. by taking the dimension or the alternating sum of the dimensions.
- Both notions are **not obvious**, e.g. the first notion of “Betti numbers” was in the year 1857 (B. Riemann!!) and the first notion of “homology groups” was in the year 1925.

# The ladder of categories



# Categorification is ill-defined

Note that the notion of categorification is ill-defined. The rough idea is to replace set theoretical structures by category theoretical structures. So categorification could mean

- An inverse process of some **decategorification**, e.g.
  - Degroupoidification (Baez, Dolan, Trimble): a functor  $D: \text{Span}(\text{Gpd}) \rightarrow \text{Hilb}$ .
  - Grothendieck group  $C \mapsto K_0(C)$  constructions (Khovanov, Lauda).
  - Dimension  $V \mapsto \dim(V)$  constructions (homology groups).
  - more...
- Common feature: decategorification is **easy**, categorification is **hard**.
- Reveals hidden structure.

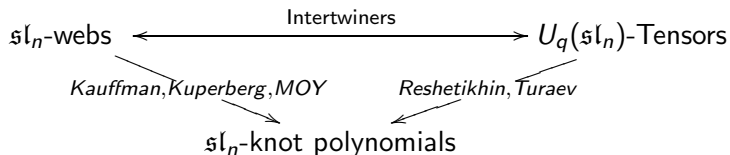
Today we use decategorification = Grothendieck group.

If you live in a two-dimensional world, then it is easy to imagine a one-dimensional world, but hard to imagine a three-dimensional world!

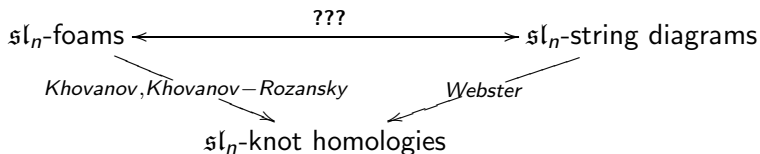
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# The rough idea

The **classical** picture.



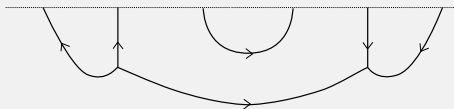
And its **categorification**.





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## Example



A **web** is an oriented trivalent graph such that any vertex is either a sink or a source. **Any** web can be obtained by gluing and disjoint union of some basic webs.



The boundary of a web corresponds to a **sign string**  $S$ , i.e.  $+$ , if the orientation is pointing in, and  $-$  otherwise. The sign string for the example is  $S = (+ + - + --)$ .

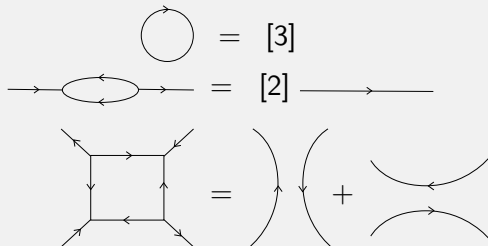
# Basic definitions

## Definition(Kuperberg)

The **web space**  $W_S$  for a given sign string  $S$  is

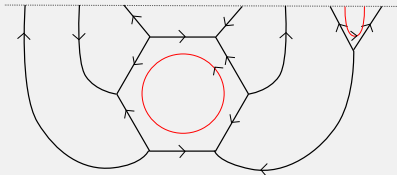
$$W_S = \mathbb{C}(q)\{w \mid \partial w = S\}/I_S,$$

where  $I_S$  is generated by the relations


$$\begin{aligned} \text{circle with arrow} &= [3] \\ \text{line with loop} &= [2] \text{ line} \\ \text{square with arrows} &= \text{curved arrows} + \text{curved arrows} \end{aligned}$$

Here  $[a] = \frac{q^a - q^{-a}}{q - q^{-1}} = q^{a-1} + q^{a-3} + \dots + q^{-(a-1)}$  is the **quantum integer**.

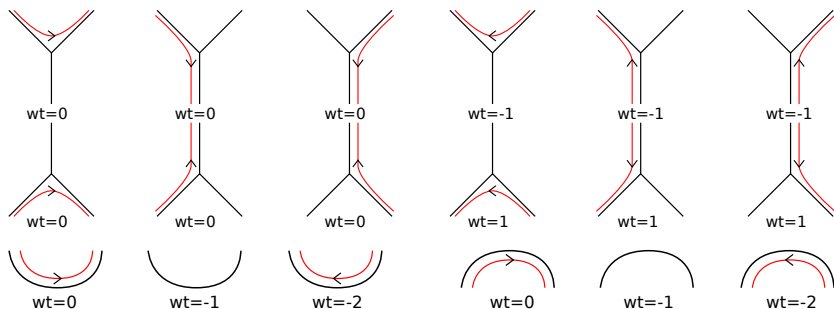
## Example



Webs can be **coloured** with flows: Define a **flow**  $f$  on a web  $w$  to be an oriented subgraph that contains exactly two of the three edges incident to each trivalent vertex. The connected components are called the **flow lines**. At the boundary, the flow lines can be represented by a **state string**  $J$ . By convention, at the  $i$ -th boundary edge, we set  $j_i = +1$  if the flow line is oriented upward,  $j_i = -1$  if the flow line is oriented downward and  $j_i = 0$  there is no flow line. So  $J = (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, -1, 1)$  in the example.

# Basic definitions

Given a web with a flow, denoted  $w_f$  attribute a **weight** to each trivalent vertex and each arc in  $w_f$ . The total weight of  $w_f$  is by definition the sum of the weights at all trivalent vertices and arcs.



The total weight from the example before is  $-3$ .

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# Representation theory of $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_3)$

A sign string  $S = (s_1, \dots, s_n)$  corresponds to

$$V_S = V_{s_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes V_{s_n},$$

where  $V_+$  is the fundamental representation and  $V_- \cong V_+ \wedge V_+$  its dual. Webs correspond to **intertwiners**.

## Theorem(Kuperberg)

$$W_S \cong \text{Hom}(\mathbb{C}(q), V_S) \cong \text{Inv}(V_S)$$

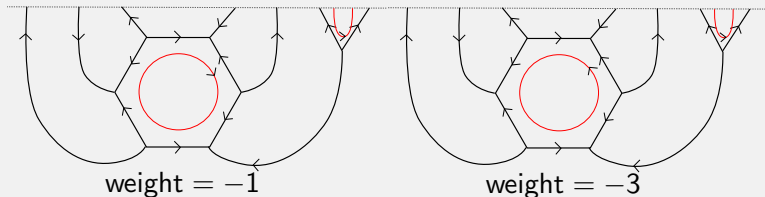
The basis of  $W_S$ , denoted  $B_S$ , is called **web basis** of  $\text{Inv}(V_S)$ . From the relations before, it follows that the webs of  $B_S$  are **non-elliptic webs**, i.e. without circles, digons or squares.

# Representation theory of $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_3)$

## Theorem(Khovanov, Kuperberg)

A pair of a sign string  $S = (s_1, \dots, s_n)$  and a state string  $J = (j_1, \dots, j_n)$  correspond to the coefficients of the web basis relative to the **standard basis**  $\{e_{-1}^\pm, e_0^\pm, e_{+1}^\pm\}$  of  $V_\pm$ .

## Example



The basis web  $w_S$  has a decomposition

$$w_S = \dots - (q^{-1} + q^{-3})(e_0^+ \otimes e_0^- \otimes e_0^+ \otimes e_0^- \otimes e_0^+ \otimes e_{-1}^+ \otimes e_{+1}^+) \pm \dots$$



Please, fasten your seat belts!

Let's categorify everything!

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A **pre-foam** is a cobordism with singular arcs between two webs. Pre-foam composition consists of placing one pre-foam on **top** of the other. The orientation of the singular arcs is, by convention, as in the diagrams below (called the **zip** and the **unzip** respectively):



We allow pre-foams to have **dots** that can move **freely** about the facet on which they belong, but we do **not** allow dot to cross singular arcs.

A **foam** is a formal  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear combination of isotopy classes of pre-foams modulo the following relations.

# The foam relations $\ell = (3D, NC, S, \Theta)$

$$\text{[parallelogram with three dots]} = 0 \quad (3D)$$

$$\text{[cylinder]} = - \text{[cup with 2 dots]} - \text{[cup with 1 dot]} - \text{[empty cup]} - \text{[cup with 1 dot]} - \text{[cup with 2 dots]} \quad (NC)$$

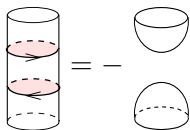
$$\text{[sphere with dashed line]} = \text{[sphere with 1 dot]} = 0, \quad \text{[sphere with 2 dots]} = -1 \quad (S)$$

$$\text{[sphere with 3 dots and axes } \alpha, \beta, \delta \text{]} = \begin{cases} 1, & (\alpha, \beta, \delta) = (1, 2, 0) \text{ or a cyclic permutation,} \\ -1, & (\alpha, \beta, \delta) = (2, 1, 0) \text{ or a cyclic permutation,} \\ 0, & \text{else.} \end{cases} \quad (\Theta)$$

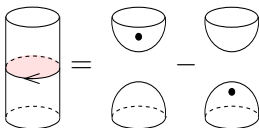
The relations  $\ell = (3D, NC, S, \Theta)$  suffice to evaluate any closed foam!

# Just to frighten you: more relations

From the relations  $\ell$  follow a lot of identities.

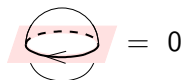


(Bamboo)

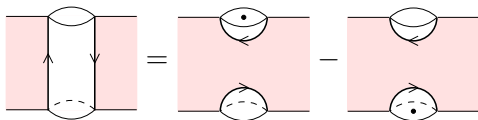


(RD)

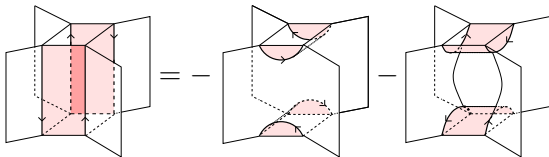
# And more relations



(Bubble)

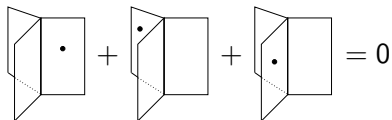


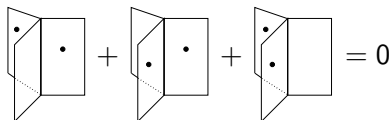
(DR)

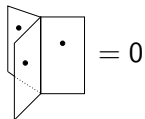


(SqR)

# And even more relations


$$\text{Diagram 1} + \text{Diagram 2} + \text{Diagram 3} = 0$$


$$\text{Diagram 4} + \text{Diagram 5} + \text{Diagram 6} = 0$$


$$\text{Diagram 7} = 0$$

(Dot Migration)

# The $\mathfrak{sl}_3$ -foam category

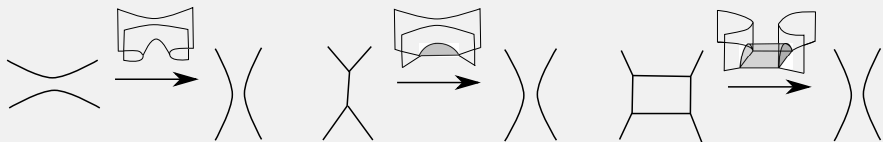
Let **Foam**<sub>3</sub> be the **category** of foams, i.e. **objects** are webs and **morphisms** are foams between webs.

The category is **graded** by the  **$q$ -degree** of a foam  $F$

$$q(F) = \chi(\partial F) - 2\chi(F) + 2d + b,$$

where  $d$  is the number of dots and  $b$  is the number of vertical boundary components.

## Example



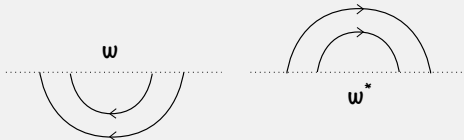
The  $q$ -degrees are 2, 1 and 0 respectively.



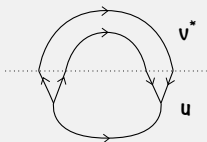
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## Definition

There is an **involution**  $*$  on the webs.



A **closed web** is defined by closing of two webs.



A **closed foam** is a foam from  $\emptyset$  to a closed web.

## Definition

The **foam homology** of a closed web  $w$  is defined by

$$\mathcal{F}(w) = \mathbf{Foam}_3(\emptyset, w).$$

$\mathcal{F}(w)$  is a graded complex vector space, whose  $q$ -dimension can be computed by the **Kuperberg bracket**:

- $\langle w \amalg \bigcirc \rangle = [3] \langle w \rangle,$
- $\langle \rightarrow \leftarrow \rightarrow \leftarrow \rangle = [2] \langle \rightarrow \rightarrow \rangle,$
- $\langle \begin{array}{c} \leftarrow \leftarrow \leftarrow \\ \leftarrow \leftarrow \leftarrow \\ \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \\ \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \end{array} \rangle = \langle \begin{array}{c} \leftarrow \leftarrow \\ \rightarrow \rightarrow \end{array} \rangle + \langle \begin{array}{c} \leftarrow \leftarrow \\ \rightarrow \rightarrow \end{array} \rangle.$

The relations above correspond to the **decomposition** of  $\mathcal{F}(w)$  into direct summands.

## Definition(MPT)

Let  $S = (s_1, \dots, s_n)$ . The  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  web algebra  $K_S$  is defined by

$$K_S = \bigoplus_{u,v \in B_S} {}_u K_v,$$

with

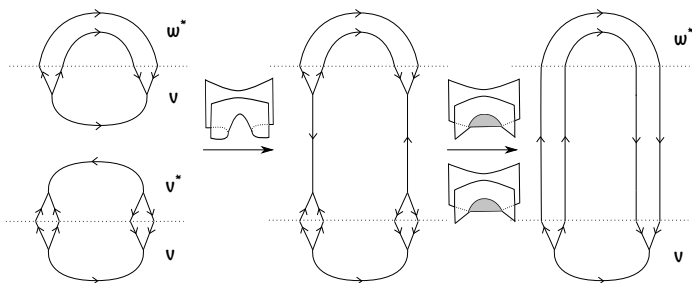
$${}_u K_v := F(u^*v)\{n\}.$$

Multiplication is defined as follows:

$${}_u K_{v_1} \otimes {}_{v_2} K_w \rightarrow {}_u K_w$$

is zero, if  $v_1 \neq v_2$ . If  $v_1 = v_2$ , use the **multiplication foam**  $m_v$ , e.g.

# The $\mathfrak{sl}_3$ web algebra



## Proposition(MPT)

The multiplication is **associative and unital**. The multiplication foam  $m_v$  **only depends** on the isotopy type of  $v$  and has  **$q$ -degree  $n$** . Hence,  $K_S$  is a finite dimensional, unital and graded algebra.

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## Definiton

An **enhanced sign sequence** is a sequence  $S = (s_1, \dots, s_n)$  with  $s_i \in \{\circ, -, +, \times\}$ , for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . The corresponding **weight**  $\mu = \mu_S \in \Lambda(n, d)$  is given by the rules

$$\mu_i = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } s_i = \circ, \\ 1, & \text{if } s_i = 1, \\ 2, & \text{if } s_i = -1, \\ 3, & \text{if } s_i = \times. \end{cases}$$

Let  $\Lambda(n, d)_3 \subset \Lambda(n, d)$  be the subset of weights with entries between 0 and 3. For any enhanced sign string  $S$ , we define  $\widehat{S}$  by deleting the entries equal to  $\circ$  or  $\times$ .

# Enhanced sign strings

Moreover for  $n = d = 3^k$  we define

$$W_S = W_{\widehat{S}} \text{ and } B_S = B_{\widehat{S}} \text{ and } W_{(3^k)} = \bigoplus_{\mu_S \in \Lambda(n,n)_3} W_S$$

on the **level** of webs and on the **level** of foams, we define

$$K_S = K_{\widehat{S}} \text{ and } \mathcal{W}_{(3^k)} = \bigoplus_{\mu_S \in \Lambda(n,n)_3} K_S - \text{pmod}_{gr}.$$

I will sketch in the following how we obtain one of our main results as a corollary.

## Corollary(MPT)

$$K_0(\mathcal{W}_{(3^k)}) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]} \mathbb{C}(q) \cong W_{(3^k)}.$$



The natural actions of  $GL_k$  and  $GL_n$  on

$$\text{Alt}^p(\mathbb{C}^k \otimes \mathbb{C}^n) = \Lambda^p(\mathbb{C}^k \otimes \mathbb{C}^n)$$

are **Howe dual** (skew Howe duality).

This **implies** that

$$\text{Inv}_{\text{SL}_k}(\Lambda^{p_1}(\mathbb{C}^k) \otimes \cdots \otimes \Lambda^{p_n}(\mathbb{C}^k)) \cong W(p_1, \dots, p_n),$$

where  $W(p_1, \dots, p_n)$  denotes the  $(p_1, \dots, p_n)$ -weight space of the irreducible  $GL_n$ -module  $W(k^\ell)$ , if  $n = k^\ell$ .

## Definition

- The algebra  $\mathbf{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  is generated by  $K_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, K_n^{\pm 1}$  and  $E_{\pm 1}, \dots, E_{\pm(n-1)}$  subject to a **long** list of relations.
- The algebra  $\mathbf{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_n) \subset \mathbf{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  is generated by  $K_i K_{i+1}^{-1}$  and  $E_{\pm i}$ .
- Their **idempotent completions**  $\dot{\mathbf{U}}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$  and  $\dot{\mathbf{U}}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ , are defined by adjoining idempotents  $1_\lambda$  for any weight  $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  (and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}^{n-1}$  for the special linear group) subject to a **long** list of relations.

Note that the idempotent complete version are much **easier**, e.g. it is much easier to write down a nice basis.

# A finite-dimensional semi-simple quotient

## Lemma(Doty, Giaquinto)

The **q-Schur algebra**  $S_q(n, d)$  is generated by  $1_\lambda$ , for  $\lambda \in \Lambda(n, d)$ , and  $E_{\pm 1}$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, n - 1$ , such that

$$\begin{aligned}1_\lambda 1_\mu &= \delta_{\lambda, \mu} 1_\lambda, \\ \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda(n, d)} 1_\lambda &= 1, \\ E_{\pm 1} 1_\lambda &= 1_{\lambda \pm \alpha_i} E_{\pm 1}, \\ E_i E_{-j} - E_{-j} E_i &= \delta_{i, j} \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda(n, d)} [\lambda_i - \lambda_{i+1}] 1_\lambda.\end{aligned}$$

It is finite-dimensional and semi-simple. It is known that

$$S_q(n, n) 1_{3^\ell} / (\mu > (3^\ell)) \cong V_{(3^\ell)}.$$

# The action

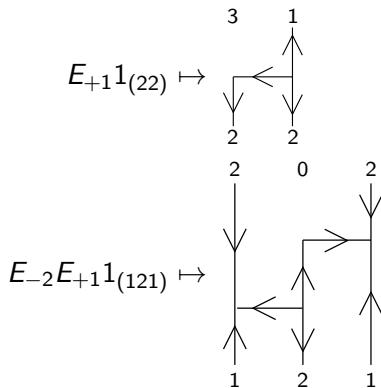
We defined an action  $\phi$  of  $S_q(n, n)$  on  $W_{(3^\ell)}$  by

$$\begin{array}{c} 1_\lambda \mapsto \begin{array}{c} | \quad | \quad \dots \quad | \\ \lambda_1 \quad \lambda_2 \quad \dots \quad \lambda_n \end{array} \\ \\ E_{\pm i} 1_\lambda \mapsto \begin{array}{c} \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \\ | \quad \dots \quad | \quad \text{---} \quad | \quad | \quad | \quad \dots \quad | \\ \lambda_1 \quad \dots \quad \lambda_{i-1} \quad \lambda_i \quad \lambda_{i+1} \quad \lambda_{i+2} \quad \dots \quad \lambda_n \end{array} \end{array}$$

$\lambda_{i\pm 1} \quad \lambda_{i+1\mp 1}$

We use the convention that vertical edges labeled 1 are oriented upwards, vertical edges labeled 2 are oriented downwards and edges labeled 0 or 3 are erased. The hard part was to show that this is **well-defined**.

# Exempli gratia



# An instance of skew Howe-duality

## Lemma

The action  $\phi$  gives rise to an isomorphism

$$\phi: V_{(3^\ell)} \rightarrow W_{(3^\ell)}$$

of  $S_q(n, n)$ -modules.

Note that these are categorifications of  $\dot{\mathbf{U}}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$  and  $\dot{\mathbf{U}}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ , denoted as  $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$  and  $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ , by Khovanov and Lauda.

The idea now is to categorify the whole process!

# Some work was already done!

## Theorem(Mackaay, Stošić, Vaz)

**Define**, similar to the uncategorified story, a 2-category  $\mathcal{S}(n, d)$ . Let  $\dot{\mathcal{S}}(n, d)$  be the Karoubi envelope of  $\mathcal{S}(n, d)$ . Then

$$K_0(\dot{\mathcal{S}}(n, d)) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]} \mathbb{C}(q) \cong S_q(n, d).$$

The following was conjectured by Khovanov and Lauda in 2008. Note that  $\mathcal{V} = R_\lambda - \text{pmod}_{\text{gr}}$  for  $\lambda \in \Lambda(n, n)^+$  (the algebra  $R_\lambda$  is a quotient of  $\mathcal{S}(n, d)$  and is called **Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier algebra**).

## Theorem(Brundan-Kleshchev, Lauda-Vazirani, Webster, Kang-Kashiwara,...)

As  $\dot{\mathbf{U}}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$  we have

$$K_0(\mathcal{V}_\lambda) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]} \mathbb{C}(q) \cong V_\lambda.$$

# The action (categorified)

We **defined** an action  $\phi$  of  $S_q(n, n)$  on  $\mathcal{W}_{(3^\ell)}$  by

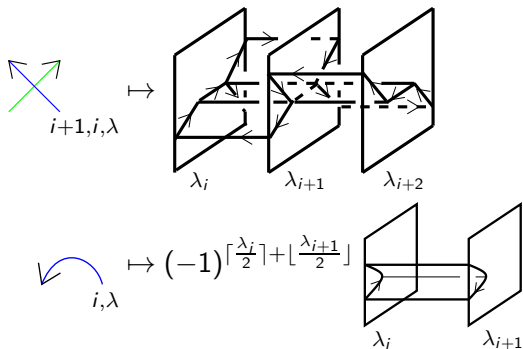
- On objects its the **aforementioned** action  $\phi$  of  $S_q(n, n)$  on  $\mathcal{W}_{(3^\ell)}$ .
- On morphisms we do it, like before, on the generators.

Note that this time everything gets (categorification is “richer”, remember?) more complicated, i.e. there are eleven completely different generators instead of two, there are **way more** relations to check and the pictures are **two-dimensional** now.

Lets me give two of the definitions for the generators and one example one has to check.

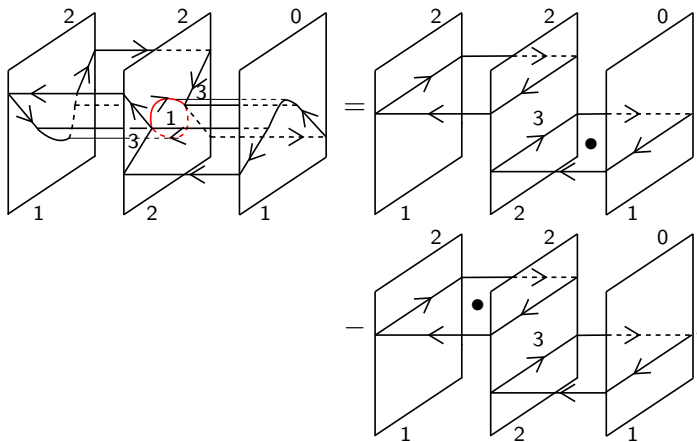


# The signs are important!



But until everything is checked, we get the very nice result that this action is **well-defined**.

# It's horrible!



# It's harvest time!

By Rouquier's universality theorem, after **pulling back** the categorical action, we get

## Theorem(MPT)

Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be **any** idempotent complete category, which allows an integrable graded categorical action by  $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$  (plus some extra conditions). Then there exists an equivalence of categorical  $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$ -representations

$$\Phi: \mathcal{V}_{(3^k)} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}_{(3^k)},$$

and therefore to  $\mathcal{V}$ .

Note that we are using the  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  web algebra to obtain the result for  $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$ !

# It's harvest time!

Checking all the definitions, we see that we have a commuting square of isomorphisms (bijective **isometries** even). Hence, we finally get our hands on  $K_0$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V_{(3^k)} & \xrightarrow{\gamma_{(3^k)}} & K_0(\mathcal{V}_{(3^k)}) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]} \mathbb{C}(q) \\ \phi \downarrow & & \downarrow K_0(\Phi) \\ W_{(3^k)} & \xrightarrow{\psi} & K_0(\mathcal{W}_{(3^k)}) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]} \mathbb{C}(q) \end{array}$$

## Corollary(MPT)

$$K_0(\mathcal{W}_{(3^k)}) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]} \mathbb{C}(q) \cong W_{(3^k)}.$$

The result above leads to the following theorem.

## Theorem(MPT)

The two algebras  $R_{3\ell}$  and  $K_{3\ell}$  are Morita equivalent.

Note that Morita invariant properties can be check in **both** algebras now.

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# A trace form on the $\mathfrak{sl}_3$ web algebra

## Definition

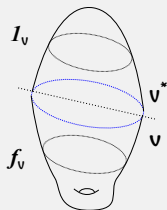
There is a natural **trace form** on the algebra  $K_S$ . We take, by definition, the trace form

$$\text{tr}: K_S \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

to be zero on  ${}_u K_v$ , when  $u \neq v \in B_S$ . For any  $v \in B_S$ , we define

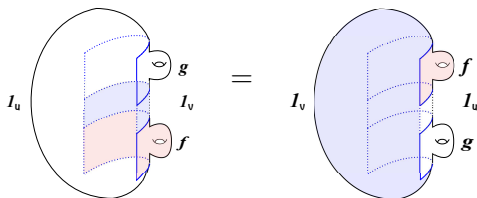
$$\text{tr}: {}_v K_v \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

by closing any foam  $f_v$  with  $1_v$ , e.g.



# It's Frobenius!

The trace is **non-degenerated** and **symmetric**. Both can be seen geometrical, e.g. the fact that  $\text{tr}(gf) = \text{tr}(fg)$  holds follows from sliding  $f$  **around** the closure until it appears on the other side of  $g$ , e.g.



The non-degenerate trace form on  $K_S$  gives rise to a graded  $(K_S, K_S)$ -bimodule isomorphism  $K_S^\vee \cong K_S\{-2n\}$ , i.e. we have

## Theorem(MPT)

For any sign string  $S$  of length  $n$ , the algebra  $K_S$  is a graded, symmetric Frobenius algebra of Gorenstein parameter  $2n$ .

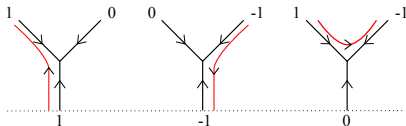


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# Tableaux and flows

Let  $p_S$  be the number of positive entries and  $n_S$  the number of negative entries of  $S$ . By definition, we have that  $d = p_S + 2n_S$ . Our key idea is to reduce everything to the case where  $n_S = 0$ . Fix any state string  $J$  of length  $n$ , we **define** a new state string  $\widehat{J}$  of length  $d$  by the following **algorithm**:

- 1 Let  ${}_0\widehat{J}$  be the empty string.
- 2 For  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , let  ${}_i\widehat{J}$  be the result of concatenating  $j_i$  to  ${}_{i-1}\widehat{J}$  if  $\mu_i = 1$ . If  $\mu_i = 2$  then
  - 1 concatenate  $(1, 0)$  to  ${}_{i-1}\widehat{J}$  if  $j_i = 1$ ,
  - 2 concatenate  $(0, -1)$  to  ${}_{i-1}\widehat{J}$  if  $j_i = -1$ ,
  - 3 concatenate  $(1, -1)$  to  ${}_{i-1}\widehat{J}$  if  $j_i = 0$ .



# Tableaux and flows

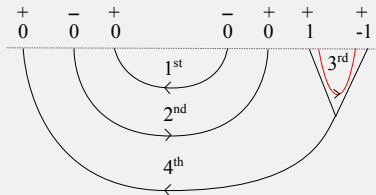
## Proposition(MPT)

There is a **bijection** between  $\text{Col}_\mu^\lambda$  and the set of state strings  $J$  such that there exists a  $w \in B_S$  and a flow  $f$  on  $w$  which extends  $J$ . The bijection is given by an **algorithm**.

## Example

The tableau on the left gives rise to the web with flow next to it.

|   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | 0 | -1 |
| 2 | 1 | 2  |
| 4 | 3 | 4  |
| 6 | 5 | 7  |



For **other choices** the same tableau generates the following web with flow.

Let  $X_\mu^\lambda$  be the  $(\lambda, \mu)$ -**Spaltenstein variety**. Note that, if  $n_S = 0$ , then  $X_\mu^\lambda = X^\lambda$ , the latter being the Springer fiber associated to  $\lambda$ .

Let  $P = \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_d]$ . If  $\mu$  is the composition associated to  $S$ , then let  $S_\mu$  be the corresponding parabolic subgroup of the symmetric group  $S_d$  and therefore let  $P^\mu := P^{S_\mu} \subset P$  be the subring of polynomials which are invariant under  $S_\mu$ .

For a specific ideal  $I_\mu^\lambda$  let  $R_\mu^\lambda := P^\mu / I_\mu^\lambda$ . Brundan and Ostrick proved that

$$H^*(X_\mu^\lambda) \cong R_\mu^\lambda.$$

# The center of $K_S$

We showed that  $R_\mu^\lambda$  acts on  $K_S$  and that (as graded complex algebras)

$$R_\mu^\lambda 1 \subset Z(K_S).$$

By a dimension argument (based on Morita equivalence) we get

## Theorem(MPT)

$H^*(X_\mu^\lambda)$  is isomorphic (as graded algebras) to  $Z(K_S)$ . The dimension of the center is  $\#\text{Col}_\mu^\lambda$ , i.e. the center is parametrised by flows on the boundary line.

Since one can say that  $X_\mu^\lambda$  “generalises” Schubert calculus, we say that  $Z(K_S)$  “categorifies” a part of the calculations with symmetric polynomials.

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# Two motivating examples

## Example

Let  $A = M_{n \times n}(R)$ , i.e. the set of  $n \times n$ -matrices over  $R$ . Set  $\mathfrak{P} = \{*\}$  and  $\mathcal{T}(*) = \{1, \dots, n\}$ . The standard basis of  $A$ , i.e. the  $e_{ij}$ -matrices, has a very special property, namely that the coefficients for multiplication with a matrix from the right **only** depend on the row  $i$  and **vice versa** for multiplication from the left. Moreover, for  $i(M) = M^t$ , we have  $i(e_{ij}) = e_{ji}$ .

## Example

Let  $A = R[x]/(x^n)$  and  $i = \text{id}$ . Then set  $\mathfrak{P} = \{0, \dots, n-1\}$  and  $\mathcal{T}(k) = \{1\}$ . Then the standard basis  $c_{11}^k = x^k$  has a very special property, namely that the coefficients for multiplication **only** depends on higher powers of  $x$  (modulo  $x^n$ ).

The idea of Graham and Lehrer was to **“interpolate”** between the two extremes.

## Definition(Graham, Lehrer)

Suppose  $A$  is a free algebra over  $R$  of finite rank. A **cell datum** is an order quadruple  $(\mathfrak{P}, \mathcal{T}, C, i)$ , where  $(\mathfrak{P}, \triangleright)$  is the **weight poset**,  $\mathcal{T}(\lambda)$  is a finite set for all  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{P}$ ,  $i$  is an **involution** and an injection

$$C: \coprod_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{P}} \mathcal{T}(\lambda) \times \mathcal{T}(\lambda) \rightarrow A, (s, t) \mapsto c_{st}^\lambda,$$

such that the  $c_{st}^\lambda$  form a  $R$ -basis of  $A$  with  $i(c_{st}^\lambda) = c_{ts}^\lambda$  and for all  $a \in A$

$$c_{st}^\lambda a = \sum_{u \in \mathcal{T}(\lambda)} r_{tu}(a) c_{st}^\lambda \pmod{A^{\triangleright \lambda}}.$$

The  $c_{st}^\lambda$  are called a **cellular basis** of  $A$  (with respect to the involution  $i$ ).



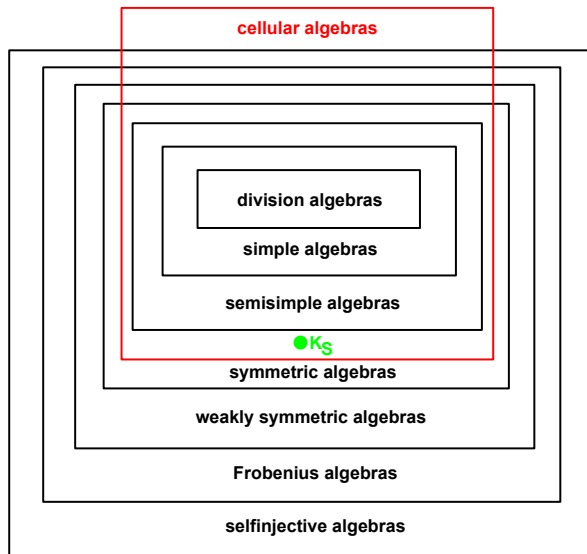
# $K_S$ is cellular!

Note that the whole notions of cellularity can be generalised to the concept of **graded cellularity**. As mentioned before, we know that the algebras  $K_{(3^k)}$  and  $R_{(3^k)}$  are Morita equivalent. Hu and Mathas showed that latter is a **graded cellular algebra**. Moreover, König and Xi showed that cellularity is (up to some technicalities with the involutions) an **invariant** under Morita equivalence. Hence, we have:

## Theorem(MPT)

The algebra  $K_S$  is a finite dimensional, graded cellular and symmetric Frobenius algebra.

Note that we don't have a cellular basis at the moment (the proof of the invariance of cellularity is **not** constructive), but we have a good candidate!



Terra periculosa

There is still **much** to do...

Thanks for your attention!